

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method of executing a system management command on  
5 computer systems in a network, said computer systems  
running different system management software  
utilities having different command structures, said  
method comprising the steps of:  
  
10 entering the command in a common interface, said  
common interface translating said command into the  
different command structures;  
  
15 dispatching each translated command to each of the  
computer systems; and  
  
executing the command on the computer systems.
2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said command is  
20 executed concurrently.
3. The method of Claim 2 wherein said command includes  
a command to provide command execution progress  
status back to said common interface.  
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4. The method of Claim 3 wherein the computer systems  
on which the command is to be executed are entered  
in groups.
- 30 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein before the command is  
dispatched to the computer systems, the command

interface pings the computer systems to ascertain their operability.

- 5 6. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for executing a system management command on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said computer program product comprising:

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code means for allowing the command to be entered in a common interface, said common interface translating said command into the different command structures;

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code means for dispatching each translated command to each of the computer systems; and

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code means for requesting that the command be executed on the computer systems.

7. The computer program product of Claim 6 wherein said command is executed concurrently.

- 25 8. The computer program product of Claim 7 wherein said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface.

- 30 9. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein the computer systems on which the command is to be executed are entered in groups.

10. The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein  
before the command is dispatched to the computer  
5 systems, the command interface pings the computer  
systems to ascertain their operability.

11. An apparatus for executing a system management  
command on computer systems in a network, said  
10 computer systems running different system management  
software utilities having different command  
structures, said apparatus comprising:

means for entering the command in a common  
15 interface, said common interface translating said  
command into the different command structures;

means for dispatching each translated command to  
each of the computer systems; and  
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means for requestin the command be executed on the  
computer systems.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said command is  
25 executed concurrently.

13. The apparatus of Claim 12 wherein said command  
includes a command to provide command execution  
progress status back to said common interface.  
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14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the computer systems on which the command is to be executed are entered in groups.

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15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein before the command is dispatched to the computer systems, the command interface pings the computer systems to ascertain their operability.

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16. A computer system for commanding that a system management command be executed on computer systems in a network, said computer systems running different system management software utilities having different command structures, said computer system comprising:

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at least one memory device for storing the command;  
and

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at least one processor, said processor for processing software code for allowing the command to be entered in a common interface and for translating said command into the different command structures, for dispatching each translated command to each of the computer systems and for commanding that said command be executed on the computer systems.

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17. The computer system of Claim 16 wherein said command is executed concurrently.

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18. The computer system of Claim 17 wherein said command includes a command to provide command execution progress status back to said common interface.
- 5 19. The computer system of Claim 18 wherein the computer systems on which the command is to be executed are entered in groups.
- 10 20. The computer system of Claim 19 wherein before the command is dispatched to the computer systems, the command interface pings the computer systems to ascertain their operability.

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